MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRAILLE AUTHORITY OF NORTH AMERICA
Ramada O'Hare Inn Rosemont, Illinois
June 8, 1977

A meeting of the Braille Authority of North America was held on Wednesday, June 8, 1977 at the Ramada O'Hare Inn, Rosemont, Illinois. The Chairman, Mr. Roberts, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Present were:

Harold G. Roberts-AAWB
Mrs. Irvin F. Richman-NBA
Martin F. Droege-Clovernook
E.G. Brown-CNIB
Robert A.J. Gildea-ACM
James E. Haralsen-AEVH
Ralph E. McCracken-APH
Miss Marian Wurster-AFB
(Mrs. Darleen Bogart, accompanying Mr. Brown

Mr. Floyd Cargill(ACB) joined the meeting slightly later.

The following corrections were made to the minutes of the meeting of April 4, 1977 as circulated to the members: Page 3, line 5: Add "n" to "Children."
Page 3, line 18: Add "Ralph E. McCracken" to the members of the committee.
Page 4, line 1: Correct typographical error in "of".

MSC Mr. Gildea moved the acceptance of the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Roberts reported on the Memorandum of Understanding with Florida State University. Dr. Jones asked that two changes be made in the Memorandum as submitted:
Page 1, line 20: Change "Section" to "Track."
Page 2, #3: Add "and such other codes as may be agreed upon by BANA and FSU."

MSC Mr. Gildea moved the adoption of the corrections. The motion was seconded and carried.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED PROJECT FOR SETTING STANDARDS FOR BRAILLE PRODUCED BY COMPUTER

At our last meeting each member was provided with a copy of an unsolicited proposal from Mr. Peter Duran and asked to critique the proposal and circulate their critiques to the other members. Written critiques were received from AFB, CNIB, LC/DBPH, ACB and Miss Marjorie Hooper of the FSU project. Mr. Gildea, Mr. Droege and Mr. Haralsen presented their views orally. Mr. McCracken stated that it had been his understanding that we were to receive proceedings of the June 1976 Workshop before writing our critiques.

An extensive discussion of the proposal followed during which the following points were made:

1. Any changes made in the literary braille code to make it computer programmable without human intervention must be made in such a manner as to have minimal impact on the braille reader.

2. We should collect all findings to date and do a small field test before reaching a final decision.

3. The FSU project has submitted an application for an additional grant to study this question, but we do not know exactly what this proposal contains, whether it will be funded or what time frame it would fit into.

4. We cannot make an intelligent decision without having an opportunity to study the Proceedings of the June '76 Workshop.

GC Since all members evaluating Mr. Duran's proposal had recommended its rejection in its present form, it was the consensus of the group that Mr. Roberts should write Mr. Duran a letter stating that our initial evaluation indicates that it is not likely that we will accept his proposal, but that we will need the Proceedings of the June '76 Workshop before making a final decision. The letter should be couched in such a fashion as to indicate that we do not consider Mr. Duran to have a proprietary interest in the concept of such a study. In his letter, Mr. Roberts will ask Mr. Duran to provide both print and braille copies of, the Proceedings for each member of BANA.

MSC Mr. Gildea moved that: After receiving the Proceedings of the June '76 Workshop, each board member should submit a proposal outlining a procedure for BANA to follow in considering changes in the literary braille Code to accomodate automatic translation. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting recessed at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

NEED FOR CRITERIA AND REGULATIONS FOR ADMITTING ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO MEMBERSHIP IN BANA

MS Mr. Brown moved that: Major producers of braille be invited to become members of BANA and that groups representing nonsectarian consumers with memberships of 3,000-5,000 be invited to participate.

MSC Mr. Gildea moved that the motion be amended by deleting the word "major", substituting the phrase, "Not more than one additional" before "producers" and deleting the portion of the motion beginning with the words, "and that groups ..." The amendment was seconded and carried.

MSC Mr. Cargill moved to lay the motion on the table. This motion was seconded and carried.

MSC Mr. Cargill moved that: The membership of BANA remain as it is for a period of twelve (12) months. The motion was seconded and carried.

MSC Mr. Cargill moved that: The Bylaws Committee shall be instructed to develop a proposal for including additional countries in BANA after June, 1978. The motion was seconded and carried.

GC Mr. Gildea suggested that Mr. Roberts write to other countries

who might wish to become members of BANA with the purpose of interesting them in eventually becoming members.

Mr. Roberts appointed Mrs. Richman Chairman and Mr. Cargill and Mr. McCracken members of a committee to devise a structure for technical committees, etc. for BANA.

The next meeting of BANA was tentatively scheduled for the week of November 13th in the Chicago area.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Irvin F. Richman,
Secretary

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March 14, 1977

To: Members, Braille Authority of North America

From: H. G. Roberts

Subject: NOTICE OF MEETING
Monday, April 4, 1977

Based upon your responses, the next meeting of the Braille Authority of North America will be held on Monday, April 4th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm We will meet at the O'Hare Inn, Mannheim and Higgins Roads, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018.

Enclosed is a copy of & tentative agenda, as well as the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Florida State University. Dick Evensen, who has collaborated with Durward McDaniel, will send a copy of the proposed By-Laws to each of you directly.

The enclosed reservation cards should be filled out and mailed to the O'Hare Inn directly.

Unless we hear otherwise from you, we will assume that you will attend. Best wishes.

HGR:bs
enc